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Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Fifteenth session
18-22 April 2016
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional annotated agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Moving from commitments to results: transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals:
   (a) Ensuring prioritization and decision-making that is fair, responsive, inclusive, participatory and accountable at all levels;
   (b) Improving engagement and communication between Governments and stakeholders, including through access to information, open government and electronic and mobile solutions;
   (c) Ensuring effective and innovative implementation, monitoring and impact evaluation of the policies identified in support of the Sustainable Development Goals;
   (d) Strengthening the confidence of citizens in the effectiveness, validity and integrity of public administration through enhanced, targeted efforts to use good governance to prevent, expose and deal with corruption;
   (e) Developing transformative leadership and enhancing relevant competencies of public servants.
4. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Committee.
5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifteenth session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

The Committee will elect a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur for its fifteenth session. The Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur constitute the Bureau. In accordance with established practice, the officers will continue to act as the Bureau during the intersessional period in preparation for the sixteenth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The Committee will adopt the agenda of the fifteenth session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2015/247.

The Committee is scheduled to meet from Monday to Friday, 18 to 22 April 2016. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Informal meetings and events may be held at other times.

Documentation

Provisional annotated agenda (E/C.16/2016/1)

3. Moving from commitments to results: transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals

At its coordination and management meeting held on 22 July 2015, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the Committee examine the transformation of public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals at its fifteenth session.

With regard to inclusive policy formulation, in its resolution 2015/28 on the report of the Committee on the fourteenth session, the Council underlined that attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets, in accordance with national and local contexts and priorities, will require clarifying roles and responsibilities of public sector entities, civil society and private sector actors in policy design and implementation, taking into account pre-existing power structures. The Council encouraged Governments to foster the participation of citizens at all levels, in a trustful manner, in order to mobilize efforts and resources for achieving sustainable development. Moreover, the Council reaffirmed that access to public service by citizens should be a central concern of public sector transformation in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, and encouraged Member States to create pathways to citizen engagement with a view to designing policies and strategies in an inclusive manner, inter alia, by strengthening regulatory processes of public consultation with all stakeholders at all levels.

Inclusive policy formulation has figured variously in the reports of the Committee in connection with citizen engagement in the implementation and monitoring of internationally agreed development goals. Most recently, at the fourteenth session, the Committee observed that the inclusion of stakeholders in government efforts to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals is essential and inevitable, given that Governments are challenged by the increasing demand to involve people in

decision-making processes. The Committee also noted that the earlier stakeholders are engaged, the better the outcome will normally be, bearing in mind that engaging stakeholder groups may require improving capacities and capabilities for participation in policy processes.

Regarding policy integration, the Council recognized that integrated policymaking, involving effective policy design and implementation, stakeholder engagement and coordination across government, calls for transformative leadership, creativity, critical thinking and analytical skills, supported by an enabling environment comprising, inter alia, lead agencies tasked with reducing fragmentation through a process of programme review, and behaviours that promote the sharing of data, information, knowledge, ideas and resources.

The Committee noted that integration is not "business as usual" for most Governments and that government administration is usually organized along sectoral lines with fragmented agenda-setting. The Committee also observed that policymaking is mostly sectoral in nature for a number of reasons and policy integration efforts should therefore not be seen as an alternative to sector-specific processes. Rather, the foundation of integration rests on effective policymaking within sectors, along with the ability to convince sectoral actors to explore the benefits of cross-sectoral cooperation.

The Committee found that institutional constraints to integrated policy formulation typically include overly hierarchical structures, lack of a common strategic policy direction, sectoral self-interest and a complicated division of labour. These structural challenges can be compounded by inadequate mechanisms for allocating resources for cross-cutting issues and ensuring shared accountability for shared responsibilities. Disincentives to policy integration among public servants typically include a lack of skills, perceived loss of power or authority, competition for resources and corruption.[1]

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (E/C.16/2016/2)

Conference room paper on preconditions and process design for successfully transforming public institutions for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Report of the expert group meeting on moving from commitments to results in building effective, inclusive and accountable institutions at all levels, United Nations Headquarters, 17 and 18 February 2016

Background note by the Secretariat on governance principles

(a) Ensuring prioritization and decision-making that is fair, responsive, inclusive, participatory and accountable at all levels

In connection with transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable

[1] See the report of the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, held from 20 to 24 April 2015, chapter III (E/2015/44-E/C.16/2015/7).

Development Goals, the Committee will consider the question of moving from commitments to results in ensuring prioritization and decision-making that is fair, responsive, inclusive, participatory and accountable at all levels.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on diversity and non-discrimination in public administration: strategic levers for sustainable development (E/C.16/2016/3)

Conference room paper on the promotion of diversity in employment and an inclusive workplace culture

Conference room paper on community-driven development

Conference room paper on principles and mechanisms of sharing responsibilities and resources between national and local governments

(b) Improving engagement and communication between Governments and stakeholders, including through access to information, open government and electronic and mobile solutions

In connection with transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee will consider the question of moving from commitments to results in improving engagement and communication between Governments and stakeholders, including through access to information, open government and electronic and mobile solutions.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on institutional capacity in the administration of public space in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals: interaction between government and society (E/C.16/2016/4)

Conference room paper on improving engagement and communication between Governments and stakeholders through online and mobile solutions

Conference room paper on evaluation of open government performance and results

(c) Ensuring effective and innovative implementation, monitoring and impact evaluation of the policies identified in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

In connection with transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee will consider the question of moving from commitments to results in ensuring effective and innovative implementation, monitoring and impact evaluation of the policies identified in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on oversight institutions, mechanisms and standards of government administration (E/C.16/2016/5)

Conference room paper on promoting innovation and learning in the course of policy implementation

Conference room paper on public procurement

(d) Strengthening the confidence of citizens in the effectiveness, validity and integrity of public administration through enhanced, targeted efforts to use good governance to prevent, expose and deal with corruption

In connection with transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee will consider the question of moving from commitments to results in strengthening the confidence of citizens in the effectiveness, validity and integrity of public administration through enhanced, targeted efforts to use good governance to prevent, expose and deal with corruption.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on enhancing efforts to use good governance to prevent, expose and deal with corruption: two significant measures (E/C.16/2016/6)

Conference room paper on public and parliamentary oversight of State bodies in the fight against corruption

Conference room paper on addressing the normalization of corruption in public institutions

(e) Developing transformative leadership and enhancing relevant competencies of public servants

In connection with transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee will consider the question of moving from commitments to results in developing transformative leadership and enhancing relevant competencies of public servants.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on developing transformative leadership and enhancing relevant competencies of public servants (E/C.16/2016/7)

4. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Committee

The Committee will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its sixteenth session. In its resolution 68/1, the General Assembly called upon the Economic and Social Council to invite its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the Council's agreed annual theme. The theme of the 2017 session of the Council will be decided in 2016. The Committee may wish to propose a provisional agenda for the sixteenth session incorporating an item on the governance and public administration aspects of the 2017 theme.

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifteenth session

The Committee will adopt a report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council on the work of its fifteenth session. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1, the Committee shall include in its report an executive summary, and the report should be concise, clearly identifying the conclusions and recommendations and issues that may require attention and/or action by the Council. The Council may conduct an action-oriented review of the report and recommendations of the Committee, focusing attention on issues that require a prioritized and coordinated substantive response from the United Nations system as a whole.